

I am a person with Cerebral Palsy and, as a result, have a significant speech disability. I am a disability rights attorney. I have used traditional Speech-to-Speech for for calls to clients, other attorneys, etc., as well as in my personal life (making doctor appointments,, ordering ballgame tickets, etc.) While I find STS to be enormously helpful, I occasionally find myself wishing the CA could see me making facial gestures or other body movements (e.g., shaking my head \"yes\" or \"no\" or showing two fingers). It would have helped the conversation go smoother and more efficiently.

Over the past couple of months, I have been participating in a pilot program of Video Assisted Speech-to-Speech (VID-STSThrough the California Public Utilities Commission. I find it to make communication much smoother. They use Skype. With one of the providers, I can type them an instant message if I get stuck on a word. I find this very helpful. People with speech disabilities should benefit from the fruits of the internet, just like people with other disabilities.